

CLAIMS

1. A print server, for processing a print job sent by a workstation, the print server comprising:

a printer set-up module to provide a print driver for installation on the
5 workstation; and

an authentication module to supply an authentication code to the workstation, and to review the print job sent by the workstation to determine validity of a copy of the authentication code attached to the print job.

10 2. The print server of claim 1, additionally comprising:

a software library to contain the print driver and at least one additional print driver.

15 3. The print server of claim 1, additionally comprising:

a webpage interface to gather information from the workstation to indicate a preferred print driver to be sent to the workstation.

20 4. The print server of claim 1, additionally comprising:

a web page to present a questionnaire to a user of the workstation.

5. The print server of claim 1, additionally comprising:

a MAC address, transferred from the workstation to the print server, to aid in the authentication of the workstation.

6. A method of printing, comprising:

attaching a workstation to a LAN;

downloading and installing a print driver on the workstation;

5 downloading an authentication code to the workstation;

sending a print job, containing the authentication code, from the workstation to a print server;

verifying validity of the authentication code; and

10 sending the print job from the print server to a printer.

7. The method of claim 6, additionally comprising:

obtaining information about the workstation; and

using the information to select the print driver from a library.

15 8. The method of claim 6, additionally comprising:

using a MAC address to assist in authenticating print jobs from the workstation.

9. The method of claim 6, additionally comprising:

20 using a webpage to present a questionnaire to a user of the workstation.

10. A method of authenticating a print job, comprising:
downloading and installing a print driver on a workstation;
downloading an authentication code to the workstation;
5 sending a print job, containing the authentication code, from the
workstation to a print server;

verifying validity of the authentication code; and
sending the print job to a printer.

10 11. The method of claim 10, additionally comprising:
gathering information from the workstation to indicate a preferred print
driver to be sent to the workstation.

15 12. The method of claim 10, additionally comprising:
using a MAC address to aid in authenticating that the print job was sent
from an authorized location.

13. A processor-readable medium having processor-executable instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to:

- 5 download and install a print driver on a workstation;
- download and install an authentication code on the workstation;
- send a print job, containing the authentication code, from the workstation to a print server;
- verify validity of the authentication code using an authentication module
- 10 on the print server; and
- send the print job from the print server to a printer.

14. The processor-readable media of claim 13, having further instructions which cause the processors to:

- 15 gather information from the workstation to indicate a preferred print driver to be sent to the workstation.

15. The processor-readable media of claim 13, having further instructions which cause the processors to:

- 20 obtain information about the workstation; and
- use the information to select the print driver from a library.

16. The processor-readable media of claim 13, having further instructions which cause the processors to:

- 25 use a MAC address aid in recognizing a location of the workstation.

17. The processor-readable media of claim 13, having further instructions which cause the processors to:

obtain information about the workstation from fields sent by a browser on the workstation.

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18. A print server, comprising:

a printer set-up module to provide a print driver for installation on a workstation; and

an authentication module to supply an authentication code to the 10 workstation, and to review a print job processed by the print driver and sent from the workstation to determine validity of the authentication code attached to the print job.